Musket

Vol. XIV, No. 5 | Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. | May 14, 1991

Malcolm X (Darryl Alladice) and his bodyguard Rashad (Gerald Bell) star in the Black Folks Theater Co.'s production of Jeff Stetson's *The Meeting*. The April 9 show was sponsored by the Lexington Metco Program and the Social Studies Department. The play, a fictional encounter between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. (Barry Lofton, not pictured), was set in Harlem a week before Malcom X's assassination. Photo by Jon Feldman

Geiger Will Leave for NJ Job by July

S.C. to name acting school superintendent by mid-June

by Jeremy Giller

On July 1, 1991, three years to the day that he assumed the superintendency of the Lexington Public Schools, Philip E. Geiger will bid farewell to his oft-tumultuous Lexington tenure and go back to his home state. He has accepted the superintendency of the Piscataway, New Jersey, public school system, where he will be chief executive officer.

Geiger said that he chose to leave beca ise "the [Lexington] School Committee made it very clear that they were looking in a different direction." He would not elaborate, other than to say, "Everybody knows that's what they were saying."

School Committee Chairperson Lois Coit said that the Committee has "always been very honest with the superintendent."

The superintendent chose the Piscataway position, he said, because it offered more money, has a more diverse community, and has a larger school system than does Lexington. He also called the situation a "good opportunity to take a position in the state where I come from."

Piscataway, whose Board of Education has appointed Geiger for a three-year term, is located seven miles from where Geiger grew up and is close to his mother and to his wife's family. Coit said that she got the impression Geiger's decision to go to Piscataway "was a decision he made about what was best for him and his family."

Geiger said that he would have chosen not to leave his current post had the March 4 School Committee elections turned out differently. In the elections, two known pro-Geiger candidates, Casimir Groblewski and Melinda Vinton, were defeated by two incumbents who had often been at odds with Geiger in the past, Polly Woodworth and Albert Zabin.

In early September of 1990, the School Committee voted to renew the superintendent's contract for one year, through June 1992. At the time, Geiger expressed disappointment that he was not renewed for the three-year period that previous superintendents had been. Before Geiger's decision to leave, the Committee had been planning to address a further renewal for Geiger early next school year.

> "[Supt. Geiger] says he wants to be remembered as the man who fixed the roofs, but he has done a lot more than that...He has made us think about things."
>
> —School Committee Chairperson Lois Coit

Though Geiger's contract calls for a 120-day notice prior to resignation, the School Committee elected to waive the time-period requirement and allow Geiger to finish his Lexington tenure June 30, because, said Coit, "[Geiger] would like to get to New Jersey. The end of a school year seemed like a good turning point." Geiger will also receive all of his vacation days as part of the agreement, under which Coit said there was no monetary transaction.

In his Lexington stay, Geiger said that he has "accomplished a lot of things. I'm not sure that reiterating them will be beneficial at this time." He said that he has done a number of things "for the students."

Coit commented, "He says he wants to be remembered as the man who fixed the roofs, but he has done a lot more than that. He has shaken us up. He has made us think about things. Even if we don't agree with his ideas, they deserve consideration....He

Continued on page 6

Senate Passes New Bill

Assembly Bill would give Senate power to make assemblies optional; X-Block resolution also OK'd

by Will Eisner

The Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate recently passed the Assembly Bill, that, if ratified by Principal David A. Wilson, will give the Senate the power to dictate whether proposed assemblies are given mandatory status.

The bill, which was created partly in response to the annual sophomore magazine drive assembly, would further allow the Senate to review arguments both for and against the proposed assembly before deciding whether the assembly is made mandatory for the entire student body, one grade, or neither.

Under the Assembly Bill, teachers would continue to decide whether to bring their classes to optional assemblies. In addition, students would still be allowed to attend optional asemblies in an in-school field trip even if their class as a whole does not attend. The new Site-Based Management Council proposed a later-accepted amendment to the bill that would give the high school administration the right to mandate an assembly under "emergency or extraordinary" conditions or when there is not sufficient time for a Senate meeting.

It is expected that Wilson will sign the bill, thus making it school policy.

The Senate has also passed a resolution regarding the future of X-Block. The resolution modifies the previous exclusivity of X-Block, permitting certain activities that were previously prohibited to take place during the time period.

Make-up work, academic help sessions, tutoring, non-mandatory club meetings, preparation for specialized tests (such as Advanced Placement Examinations) and other activities sponsored by faculty would be allowed under the X-Block resolution. Activities that would remain on the prohibited list include sports events and practices, rehearsals and presentations, and any required academic event.

The Senate is currently debating the prudence of amending the LHS Constitution to enforce the bill; currently no activities but Senate are allowed during X-Block. Amendments to the Constitution require an entire school vote. No such amendments have been proposed in the Senate's five-year history.

The discussion was held in response to an address by Wilson,

Continued on page 6

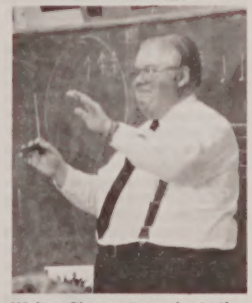
Harvard U. Joins LHS

by Matthew Cole

On Thursday, April 4, the Harvard University Wind Ensemble performed a joint concert with Lexington High School's Concert Band and Wind Ensem-ble. LHS music instructor Jeffrey Leonard said that the concert was "a musical highlight of the year."

The joint concert was scheduled just two days before the LHS Concert Band and Wind Ensemble performed at the Massachusetts Instrumental Conductors' Association (MICA) Festival, which was also held at LHS.

Band President Glenn Davis, a senior, said, "I think we played better than we have in the past." Junior Julie DeMatteo commented that she had been "very, very excited to play with some of the best players around."



Walter Chesnut conducts the LHS Wind Ensemble. Photo by Jon Feldman

Harvard Director of Bands Thomas G. Everett stated that he was "extremely impressed with the quality of the literature" performed by the high school groups. "[They] seemed to enjoy the challenge," he added.

"I thought that it went very well," said junior Greg McDonald of that evening's performance. Matt Tap, instrumental instructor for the Lexington Public Schools, said, "The concert band performed very well...Certain individuals really rose to the occasion."

"The music had personality and shape to it," Everett said afterwards; "[The students] play with understanding and insight...It's a shame that not more people showed up. Something special happened here with these kids. I'm not here because of my [Harvard] kids; I'm here because of these kids."

"We were in good shape for Saturday's performance," commented junior Matt Widiger.

Junior David Berger noted that the Harvard Wind Ensemble played "a difficult collection of pieces...But I thought their hearts weren't in it. I kind of expected more."

Widiger remarked on one of Harvard's pieces which involved the band's clapping and singing rhythms in time, characterizing it as "unique, different." Adam Rzepka agreed, saying that he

Continued on page 7

Inside

•**Student Equestrian:** Junior Elizabeth Britten spends much of her free time riding her pony Lancy. Page 3.

•**LHS Discusses Abortion:** Students for Life, Students for Choice present their philosophies Page 5.

Task Force Discusses STDs and AIDS Issues

Free condoms at LHS among possibilities

by Mike Gordon

This past summer, the Lexington Board of Health formed a local sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and AIDS task force of Lexington doctors and nurses to study and evaluate a possible townwide system that would encourage the practicing of safe sex through education and possible distribution of condoms.

The suggested program could enable students to freely acquire the condoms without the hassle and embarrassment of buying them at a local drugstore. The task force, chaired by local nurse Barbara Neustadt, was designed to deal with the issues of such a program. The program would be subject to approval by the Lexington Board of Health, and a final proposal to the board on STDs and AIDS has yet to be made.

In an April 8 meeting held at the Town Office Building, the Task Force reached a general consensus that the target problems to be addressed were parent-adolescent relationships and ignorance of safe sexual activities. The list of proposed solutions includes earlier education in the schools, parental education, a public relations campaign, encouragement of parent-child relationships, and the hottest issue, condom dispensing.

The members of the task force could not reach a single, clear-cut decision on the issue of condom dispensation, so a list of pros and cons will be presented to the Board of Health.

The actual manner in which the condoms would be made available is not yet defined. Julian Perlman, a local pediatrician and member of the task force, said that pending free distribution, the condoms would either be handed out to students who wanted them or be put into "strategically placed" vending machines presumably located in restrooms throughout Lexington High School and local restaurants.

The condoms used in the program would be supplied to Lexington by the State Health Department free of charge. The program's expenses would thus be minimal and the condoms would be free for LHS students.

Through the program, students would be relieved of the stress and anxiety involved in publicly purchasing condoms to take precautionary measures for sexual activity, according to the task force.

> "It is good to see that someone is finally taking the initiative to encourage [safe sex]."
>
> —junior Calvin Yee

Perlman noted that in all moral issues there is a wide disparity of opinions. While the program would encourage safe sex, many people feel that "making condoms freely available... is encouraging sexual activities," commented Perlman. Also, there is a problem in that students might abuse the program or vandalize condom dispensing machines.

Perlman himself is in favor of dispensing condoms at LHS, but he stressed that it is not the best way to prevent unwanted pregnancies and the spread of STDs. "Education is a very important aspect [in encouraging safe sex]," emphasized Perlman.

He continued, "The only 100 percent effective means of having safe sex is no sex at all."

The enactment of such a program would not be the first instance of giving out condoms freely at a Massachusetts school. In Cambridge, a similar program has been in effect for approximately one year. According to a report published in *The Boston Globe*, the students feel that the program has been a success. The *Globe* reported that most students surveyed do carry condoms now, and that most Cambridge students who have sex now do it safely.

LHS students were generally positive about the proposed program. Most felt the idea would be successful and said they would feel comfortable using the program to obtain condoms for safe sex. Junior Calvin Yee favored the program, commenting, "It is good to see that someone is finally taking the initiative to encourage [safe sex]." Some students expressed doubts about the idea. Senior Jocelyn Whiteside felt the program "would not be used correctly because kids would take the condoms, but would not use them as [the Board of Health] intended."

A worker puts the finishing touches on the stylish new roof covering the F-House/Science Building walkway. The walkways were uncovered during the winter months.

Photo by Jon Feldman

Jazz Choir, Combo, and Ensemble Garner Awards

by Stephen Cooley

Lexington High School's jazz groups have enjoyed an exciting year of success. This year, the two competing groups, the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo, were joined by a Jazz Choir, student directed by senior Brian Lee while Choral Director Sandi Peaslee acted only as faculty advisor. The Choir, named "Shaken, Not Stirred," first competed in the Berklee Jazz Festival in the month of February.

At this festival, both the Combo and the Choir won their respective divisions and were asked to perform in the sold-out evening concert at the Berklee Performance Center. In addition to two very big trophies, they were also awarded a combined $8,000 in scholarship money to the Berklee College of Music.

After their unexpected success at Berklee, "Shaken, Not Stirred" decided to join the Jazz Combo on their annual expedition to the State Combo and Choir Festival, this year held at Woburn High School.

Despite poor acoustics in the Woburn cafeteria and the zeroes the group received in the categories of accompaniment (the group was the only a cappella choir to compete) and improvisation, the group was still awarded a gold medal. Soloist Tanya Frank and Director Lee were also awarded Certificates of Outstanding Musicianship.

The combo's performance was greeted with great anticipation from the audience. The combo closed its performance with a tribute to its drummer Dana Robertson titled "Here's to you, Mr. Robertson." The piece was written by group's director, LHS Jazz Instructor Jeffrey Leonard. The combo received a gold medal and bass player Aaron Lacharité, a senior, was awarded an Outstanding Musicianship Certificate.

Combo trombonist Ben Nolan, a junior, said, "It was hard to tell how we really compared to the other groups because there were so many gold medals awarded."

> "I didn't understand [why drummer Dana Robertson didn't get an award], but the judges do what they want to do."
>
> —jazz combo director Jeffrey Leonard

The night's only disappointment was the failure of the judges to recognize the outstanding performance given by drummer Robertson, a senior. Many people were disappointed that he wasn't given the night's Most Valuable Player award. Director Leonard said, "I didn't understand it, but the judges do what they want to do."

All of the gold medal winning groups were invited to perform at the annual concert at the Hatch Shell on Saturday, May 25. Due to renovations being performed on the Hatch Shell, however , this year's concert will take place in Westfield. Both groups are very excited about performing without judges in front of a large audience. "Shaken, Not Stirred" working quickly to learn new music for this concert and for Jazz Nite 4, on Wednesday, May 15 and the annual Pops Concert May 23 and 24 in the Gym. The combo's next LHS appearance will be at Jazz Nite 4 on May 15, in the auditorium.

The yellow recycling bins will now be used for, among other things, newspapers, glass, and aluminum. ***Musket* File Photo**

Recycling Again

by Gina Coplon

Lexington High School's recycling program, put on hold for much of this school year, has begun again. Due to contamination of the white-paper bins early in the year, the recycling company had earlier stopped its LHS recycling program.

However, because of steps taken by the Social Action Committee of the LHS Student/Faculty Senate, the contract was renewed and the recycling program given new life. The Committee passed the "Recycling Bill" in February, hoping to spread awareness of the recycling program at LHS.

The Committee discovered that the recycling program had not been in effect for several months. With this knowledge, Committee member and social studies teacher Elaine Engelberg talked to Assistant Principal for Buildings and Facilities Anthony J. Capezza, who informed her of the contamination problems. After several intervening steps, the situation was remedied.

New blue containers have been placed in most classrooms. These receptacles are strictly for white-lined paper, white copy paper, white letter paper, and computer paper. The old yellow bins are now to be used for glossy white paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogs, phone books, washed glass, cans without paper labels, and washed plastic jugs. All other refuse should be deposited in trash cans. For the program to continue, the Social Action Committee believes it is essential for students and faculty to comply with the above rules.

News Briefs

Debate Wins 13th Straight State Championship

Nicole Silverman

The LHS debate team has had a successful school year. The team won the state championship in both the novice and policy divisions, reached the quarterfinal rounds at the Lincoln-Douglas State Tournament, and won the state sweepstakes award for the thirteenth consecutive year.

At the Catholic National Qualifier, three varsity teams and Lincoln-Douglas debaters Anjan Mukherjee and Ilya Somin qualified to compete in the Catholic National Tournament. Lincoln-Douglas debater Nicole Silverman placed first at the New England District Qualifier and will be representing New England at the National Tournament in June.

Varsity debaters Jon Goldblatt and Brian Santucci reached the quarter final round at the Harvard Tournament; varsity team Michael Antonucci and Laura Veldkamp reached the octafinal round. Also, Goldblatt and Santucci were invited to participate in the Harvard Round Robin, which is comprised of ten teams nationally. In May, two varsity teams and Lincoln-Douglas debaters Mukherjee, Silverman, and Somin represented Lexington at the University of Kentucky's Tournament of Champions. Finally, varsity debater Antonucci has been invited to teach at the University of Kentucky Summer Debate Institute. This position has been given to an LHS debater for three out of the past four years.

Two Seniors Receive Writing Commendations

News release

Two Lexington High School seniors, Karen Lee and Ilya Somin, have received national honors in the 1991 Scholastic Writing Awards contest. With 22,500 entries of whom 35 students were singled out for honors, Lee received one of three third awards and Somin received an honorable meantion. The certificate for National Achievement in Creative Writing cited the English department for special commendation.

Britten Realizes 'Desire to Ride'

by Courtney Duff

"It is five o'clock in the morning. It is misty outside, and the grass is wet with morning dew. I have been up since two-thirty, because I had to get to the barn to feed the horses and load them. While warming up several horses from my stable, including my own, I look over at one of my competitors. Someone is warming up her horse for her. I begin to feel a surge of confidence because while someone must warm up her horse for her, I can warm up not only my own, but others.

The laid-back atmosphere of the morning is slowly beginning to evolve into a day of pressure and nervousness.

"As hundreds of people begin to trickle into the show, I make sure that everyone from my stable is in the correct spot. The laid-back atmosphere of the morning is slowly beginning to evolve into a day of pressure and nervousness..."

For Lexington High School junior Elizabeth Britten, the above scenario is not uncommon. She prepares for such situations 65 hours a week at the Arrowhead horse stables in Concord, Massachusetts. She rides every day for three to four hours after school and from eight in the morning to six at night on weekends. Britten has had a lifelong love for horses and has "always had a desire to ride."

Britten has proven her talent and desire at many nationwide tournaments and horse shows. A year ago, Britten received the title of Reserve Champion at a sweepstakes for dressage (dancing) on a pony named Sunshine. At many shows, Britten has won her height division, and several times she has been an overall high scorer.

Britten is not only a weekend barn manager but also a student at Arrowhead stables. Currently, Britten has three trainers: Charlie Koch and Lauren Stevens, who teach jumping, and Marie Louise Barret, who teaches dressage.

Although Britten has worked with many horses, she is lucky enough to have had one of her own for over a year. Britten's horse, a six-year-old named Lancy, can jump five to six feet in the air, the average peak of a hurdling horse in Olympic equestrian events. Elizabeth feels that having a horse has been "extremely beneficial" to her riding skills. When riding Lancy, she said that she can judge more precisely how her signals affect his actions.

Junior Elizabeth Britten, pictured here jumping a fence, prepares for equestrian events 65 hours a week at Arrowhead stables in Concord, Massachusetts.
Photo courtesy Elizabeth Britten

This summer, Britten had the opportunity to work at a horse auction in Germany. Every day, she rode five young horses to be sold at the main auction. Britten said that living in Germany for a month and working with the horses were "new experiences because I went alone and had to speak" German. She commented that the trip "definitely made me less shy, because I had to say things, cook my own meals, and communicate on a daily basis."

Though she was the only foreigner working at the auction, Britten had a important role in the activities. She said, "It felt really good to be asked to help the Germans put a bridle on a horse or wrap a leg. In a way, even though I was a stranger, it made me feel extremely welcome."

Above all else, Elizabeth feels a strong sense of security at the Arrowhead stables. She describes it as a "second home" and "a place where I can be myself." She commented, "At school I feel unknown, and am quiet when I am not with my friends. But, at the barn, I am outgoing, loud, and happy."

LHS Science Fair Held

by Yvonne Ou

On March 20, the annual Lexington High School Science Fair was held. Twenty students were selected out of a field of 50 to go on to the regional fair. Anjan Mukherjee was selected as the grand prize winner. His project, "Determining the Cause for Increased VLDL Levels in Hypercholesterolemic Hamsters," also won several other awards. First place winners were juniors Michael Weigand, Justin Sweder, and Seetha Ramnath. Juniors Elbert Kuo, Diane Holland, and Megan Doerr captured second-place honors. Senior Pat Tullman, junior Bernadine Tsung, and sophomore Roopom Banerjee won third place.

Saxophonists Elena Proakis, Chris Sharkey, and Glenn Davis, of the LHS Jazz Ensemble, rehearse. The group has been recognized for its outstanding musicianship numerous times this year, winning awards such as a gold medal at the International Jazz Educators Festival. *Musket* File Photo

Students developed projects for the Science Fair, generally spending one to three months concentrating in fields ranging from chemistry to the environmental sciences. Biology teacher Margaret Schwatz commented, "If you're really interested, you'll enter [the Fair]; if not, you won't."

Each student was evaluated by four judges. The 40 judges who were invited ranged from college students to science professionals to teachers and administrators in the Lexington School System. All projects were judged on scientific approach, notebook, thoroughness, ingenuity and creativity, and advancement in science.

On March 21, students were awarded their prizes at an award ceremony. Sponsors donated approximately $5,000 in total. Monetary awards ranged from $50 to $250; in addition, some students received scholarships or books from the donating institutions.

"I'm always impressed with the quality of research done by the students....Very little [research is] done with the teacher's help," stated chemistry teacher David Olney. Similarly, most judges thought the experience worthwhile. One judge commented, "the students learn a lot through interaction with the judges."

Many students were surprised to win prizes and/or qualify for the regional fair. "I never expected to win an award," said junior Young-Ho Yoon.

The students who qualified for regionals were juniors Bing Chou, Erik DeBonte, Benjamin Nolan, Chris Umans, and Young-Ho Yoon; and sophomores Rachel Kleinman, Dan Marx, Sergiu Troie, Tim Weaver, and Eric Wilson.

Students Seize Gov't For a Day

by Bernadine Tsung

On March 13, Lexington High School students took part in a mock town meeting as a part of Student Government Day. Thirteen sophomores, juniors, and seniors, playing the parts of town employees — from superintendent of the schools to police chief — attempted to balance the town budget and to compensate for a 1.1 million dollar deficit.

A collaborative effort between Lexington High School and the town, the day was organized by LHS Social Studies Department Head Mary Gillespie, LHS Work-Experience Coordinator Nancy Gordon, Assistant to the Town Manager Joanne Maquire, and White.

Gordon commented, "The town department heads were very excited about the students' involvement."

Two weeks before the mock meeting, the students spent a morning touring the town and meeting many of the town's department leaders. The sites that they visited included the police and fire stations, the DPW barn, and the cemetery.

During the following week, students were responsible for meeting individually with their department heads and learning about the roles that they would play.

Those involved in the meeting were seniors Rob Benoit (police chief), Chad Crogan (police captain) and Renee Ferguson (fire captain), juniors Ann Chang (town manager), Kurt Von Stetten (Human services/COA), Josh Knobe (superintendent of schools), Diane Holland (selectman), Bernadine Tsung (chairman of selectmen), Casey McCahon (selectman), Jonathan Palant (fire chief), and Michael Gordon (DPW director), and sophomores Matt Lippert and Prashan Puviraja (school committee members).

On the morning of March 13, students were first introduced to several dozen town employees, including all of the town's department leaders. Following the introductions, town manager Chang met with the student department heads and outlined plans for the mock town meeting.

"The town department heads were very excited about the students' involvement."

—Work-Experience Coordinator Nancy Gordon

At town meeting the various student department leaders, with whispered help from their real department leaders, presented their cases to the mock board of selectmen, who then voted on each budget issue. Throughout the meeting, the board, as well as the department leaders, also fielded questions raised by real town employees who played the roles of "Mr. Irate Citizen" and "Mrs. Concerned Citizen."

The board reduced the deficit by less than five thousand dollars. Among the cuts were funds for street repairs, the replacement of DPW equipment, and human services. In addition, the board voted to cut from the appropriations for the school system. Among those services left intact were the summer hours of the East Lexington Fire Station and the present police dispatching unit.

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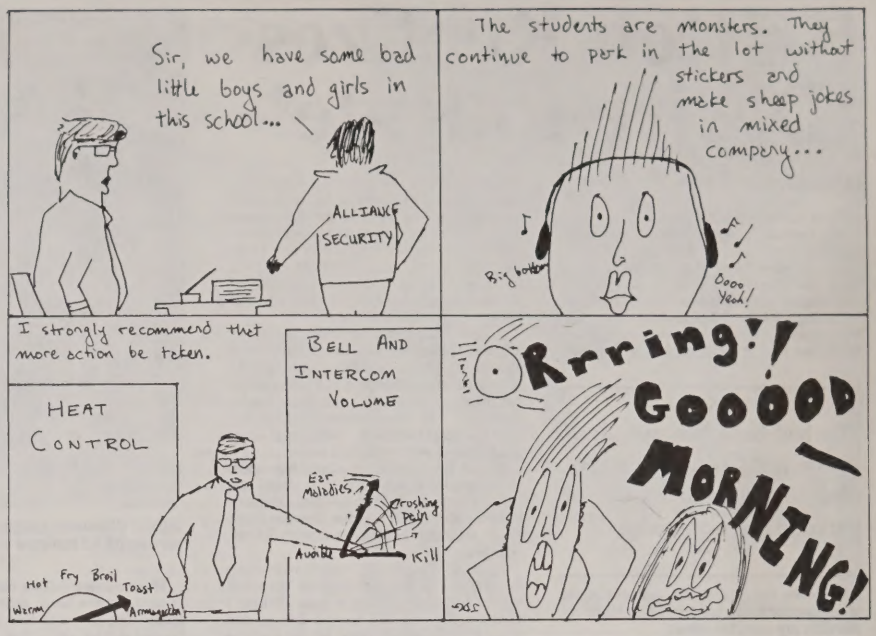
Life Skills Experience Could Be Worthwhile

Today's teenagers are under a lot of pressure from peers, parents, and teachers. Just read the headlines: Teens Die in Drunk Driving Accident, High School Student Commits Suicide, Teen Pregnancy at All-Time High, Teen Drug Rate Up. The concept of a Life Skills course to help middle school and high school students deal with issues that affect their lives makes sense. At Lexington High School, however, the problems of incorporating such a course into a normal academic program and of determining teaching style and content have considerably lessened the effect of the course.

This is the first full year of high school Life Skills, and although some students were skeptical about the merits of the course, most entered with an open mind, hoping to learn something valuable in their precious two blocks per week. Many were surprised when told during the first weeks of class that "this course is about you, and you will design the curriculum." Students were asked to pick topics in which they were interested from a list of subjects ranging from "sexuality" to "anger."



This choose-your-own-course method immediately lessened student respect for the course; in "serious" courses such as math and English, teachers would never ask students to vote on what topics they wanted to discuss. For Life Skills to truly affect students' lives, it must have a fixed curriculum, just like any normal academic course. It would be a great accomplishment if Life Skills could equip students with enough information to make educated choices about decisions they face.

Currently, Life Skills is taught in sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and eleventh grades. The course meets one day a week for a year in middle school and two days a week for a semester in high school. Such infrequent meetings reduce Life Skills to a level of secondary importance for most students, lessening the impact of the course. In middle school, Life Skills only occupies one block of thirty-five; in high school, the course is a scheduling annoyance for many students.

> One or two in-depth years of Life Skills would not only fit better into the schedule, but would also give the course a more pivotal role in students' lives.

One or two full years of in-depth Life Skills in seventh or tenth grades would not only fit better into the academic program, but would also give the course a more pivotal role in students' lives. Repeating the same extreme messages about the evils of drugs, sex, and alcohol for five of six years does not make the messages more creditable; if anything, students lose interest in and are turned off by the incessant barrage. With so little weekly meeting time, teachers' lessons are reduced to dire warnings: Don't do drugs, don't have sex, don't drink, because they're BAD for you.

If survey is replaced by substance, students will have an open attitude toward Life Skills. Perhaps Life Skills will then begin to solve the problems it now presents ineffectively.

—Dena Weinstein

Musket
editorial positions
open for 1991-1992

Applications available in Student Activities Center

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Editorials
Features
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Photography
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Business

Letters to the Editor

Junior Concerned About Students' Apathetic Attitude

To the Editor:

Some are able to spout out baseball statistics flawlessly while others immerse themselves in information pertaining the rich and famous, but do LHS students care about what is really important? The level of apathy that exists towards foreign and domestic affairs is surprising and at the same time gravely disturbing. During the war many students seemed to be hungry for news about the world, but now that it has ended so have their appetites for information. As one student put it, "[Domestic and Foreign affairs] is boring, but during the war I think that it is good to be aware. I knew a lot about what was happening during the war, but now that it is over I no longer pay attention."

In researching the level of apathy a survey was conducted of a diverse body of students. Out of the fifty surveyed, twenty-five did not know who the present governor of Massachusetts is; thirty of those surveyed did not know who the Secretary of State is, and another thirty did not know who the Kurdish people are. The responses to the questions asked revealed a lackadaisical attitude towards current events of the nation and the world. In responding to the question about the present governor, many students automatically answered Dukakis, while others admitted they did not know. When asked who the Kurdish people are one student asked in reply, "Curbs? You mean the things on the side of the road?"

How can some students not care about the important issues that will impact our lives of today and the future? How can some not car to know who is running our state or whether our foreign relations are proceeding positively? Changes can not be made when one does not even know what needs to be changed. Students must realize that they may be running this country in a few years and in even less time they will begin voting for our leaders. In essence, the future success of this country rests on the students of today making themselves aware for tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,
Nicole Silverman
Class of 1992

Stress

Sponsored by the Peer Information Center, located in the E-House cafeteria. You can find more information about stress as well as other topics at the PIC.

So what is stress anyway?

Stress is: The state of tension that is created when a person responds to the pressures and demands that come from both inside and outside forces. It is also known as the body's general response to any demand made upon it. Stress is a complex biological phenomenon, influenced by psychological, sociological, physiological and physical factors.

What can I do about stress?

Now that we know what stress is...how do we handle it? Can we escape stress altogether? In an experiment to find out what would happen in a stress-free environment, subjects were placed in a deprivation tank, void of sensation. After a period of relaxation, they began to hallucinate and have delusions...they became psychotic. The brain and body require simulation to function. Stress is essential to mental and physical health.

How do we cope?

O.K. We can't escape stress. That means we must find a way to cope. What do we do when we have a huge test tomorrow and our brains are too frazzled to think straight? What, when our parents or friends don't seem to understand? Or on days when everything down to the last detail goes wrong? Not to worry, there are ways to cope with stress:

1) Physical Exercise	(changes stress from mental to physical)
2) Proper diet	(good nutrition for good health)
3) Conversation	(sharing difficulties and problems)

Remember, if the stress gets too hard for you to handle, you can call Connection Hotline at 861-1233. We are here for advice, information, or just to talk. The Hotline is open Tuesday to Thursday from 6-10 pm.

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Abortion: Issues and Information

Students for Choice and Students for Life present positions

Contraception

Obviously, we do not feel that abortion is a good thing. However, one third of all pregnancies in this country end in abortion. The U.S. also has the highest teen pregnancy and abortion rates of any industrialized country. The reason that American women are more likely to have abortions than their European counterparts is because birth control is less available to them. In fact, in 1988 only fourteen percent of sexually active teens used condoms.

One solution to decreasing the number of abortions would be to encourage more effective and widely used birth control. However, since 1988, the U.S. is the only country other than Iran to have lost ground in terms of birth control availability and research. The only company currently doing birth control research in the U.S. is the Ortho Pharmaceutical Corporation, a division of Johnson and Johnson. Many companies fear birth control research, because of possible liabilities and lawsuits. Insurance is no longer ever available for the clinical testing of the majority of contraceptives.

Since 1980, only four new contraceptives have been introduced in the U.S. However, there are up to twenty other types of contraceptives available in other countries that are not yet available here. This is partially due to the FDA's (Food and Drug Administration's) required lengthy process for the approval of a new drug, as well as to the tendency of Americans to privatize birth control.

In many other countries, the cost of birth control is covered under health insurance plans, whereas here it is not.. Americans have traditionally looked upon birth control as a personal matter. They do not want the government involved, leading to a decrease in federal funding for research, distribution programs, etc. In fact, there is currently a ban on federal funding for abortion research.

—Melissa Liazos
Students for Choice

Student Abortion Survey

Approximately 215 males and 270 females responded to this homeroom survey in November. The survey was conducted by Students for Life.

Do you consider yourself a pro-life or pro-choice advocate?

	Pro-life	Pro-choice	Undecided	Other
Males	17%	65%	11%	7%
Females	9	81	8	2

When do you believe human life begins?

	Conception	Viability	Birth	Undecided	Other
Males	25	27	23	18	7
Females	24	27	20	23	6

Do you consider yourself well-informed on the process of abortion?

	Yes	No	Not sure
Males	47	24	30
Females	54	19	27

Do you believe that the government should be involved with abortion?

	Yes	No	To an extent[1]
Males	32	43	26
Females	20	50	30

[1]Under the "to an extent" option, some people said that there should be restrictive laws regarding abortion, while others said that there shouldn't be. Some said that the government should provide aid to abortion clinic, in order to ensure the safety of the mother's health, and to educational programs on abortion.

Philosophy

Students for Choice

The issue of abortion has been the subject of heated debate since the landmark S.C. ruling on Roe v. Wade in 1973. Lately, however, the controversy has escalated to a new level of national concern. In order to work toward a solution, it is important that everyone be educated in all the facets of this complex issue. There are two opposing sides in this war of "rights": The Pro Choice club, Students For Choice, would like to convey what we feel it means to be Pro Choice. The Pro Choice ethic is commonly misunderstood as being pro abortion. This is not entirely true. In fact a large percentage of Pro Choicers are ardently anti-abortion, both religiously and morally. They are, however, protective of the right to choose.

Being Pro Choice simply means that you think women should have the right to decide whether or not to terminate their pregnancies. The alternative is leaving this very personal issue for the courts or male-dominated legislatures to decide. A person does not have to agree with abortion to support the protection of individual rights, namely, reproductive rights. Reproductive Rights simply means that every individual should have the liberty to make decisions pertaining to conception and birth.

Pro Choicers are not trying to defend or justify the morality of abortion. They are defending something greater: the right to prevent the government from interfering in a woman's private affairs concerning her body. It should be a woman's decision whether or not to have a child; a decision which will affect the rest of her life. It would be utter travesty to have a decision of such gravity placed in the hands of courts or legislatures. Abortion is not a substitute for birth control, and it should not be taken lightly. But the question is: Who should have control over a woman's body, herself or the state?

—Kurt Langer

Editor's Note: The views expressed on this page are not necessarily those of Musket *or its staff members.*

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Students for Life

In the past fifteen years, the term "pro-life" has become increasingly controversial in the American media, and indeed, in Western society. As the abortion debate rages on among various groups of people in the United States, it becomes extremely important for advocates of both sides to make their philosophies known to the public.

The LHS Students for Life all hold the following as their group's philosophy and morality.

First and foremost, the Pro-Life group places the highest value on every human life, from the stage of conception to natural death. They acknowledge the biological fact that human life is inherited from one generation to the next, so that there is no point during a pregnancy in which life stops and then resumes. Consequently, the act of abortion is considered murder, an act that destroys a developing human life.

They believe that a pregnant woman and the child which she carries are two separate people whose lives should be equally respected. From conception, we are individual human beings and the job of doctors and citizens is to protect and nurture life — not to destroy it.

Students for Life also believe that abortion only compounds the problems of an unwanted pregnancy. Abortion, in addition to being potentially dangerous, can be an emotionally scarring experience for the mother, because of misinformation about abortion procedures and effects.

Contrary to public sentiment, the LHS group does not consider the Pro-Life morality as being Anti-Woman in any way. Students for Life do not view abortion as a matter of rights, but as one of life and its inherent value. However, Pro-Life advocates acknowledge that compassion for every unborn child demands a responsibility on the part of the community. Students for Life see adoption as a viable and realistic option for women, and understand that everyone must share the burden of finding homes for every child who would otherwise die from an abortion.

We must deal with the problem of unwanted pregnancy facing society at large. Knowledge of the development of the child and the abortion procedure are crucial pieces of information often unintentionally lost in the shuffle. However there is no such thing as a real choice without this knowledge. We are not trying to force women to raise an unplanned baby. We are not against reproduction choice before conception but these rights stop when they involve another individual's life.

—Debie Titus

Adoption

Students for Choice

As a combined result of the legalization of abortion in 1973 and the growing acceptance of single motherhood, the number of healthy white babies available for adoption has significantly decreased. Thus, there has been a lengthening of the waiting period for these white children at reputable adoption agencies. Many people would like to believe that this "shortage" of children is universal throughout the adoption industry. Unfortunately, such a perception would be grossly inaccurate.

In the United States, the are 485,000 children currently waiting to be adopted. By the year 2000, Ruben Pannoe, a man who has directed an adoption agency for thirty years, estimates that this figure will reach 1,000,000. The majority of those children will undoubtedly be from minority groups much the same way minority children make up the majority now. Unfortunately, these children are not as much a commodity as their white peers. This "surplus" of black, hispanic, and handicapped babies has resulted in a significant drop in the price agencies ask for them. For example, while the average adoption agency might charge an average of $5,500 for a healthy white infant, the same agency might charge an average of $1,500 for an equally healthy minority child. According to Feminist Majority, a local feminist group, the danger of such price discrepancies is that the value of children is being determined by their color.

—Becky Pearson

Students for Life

At a time when, according to the US Center for Disease Control, babies born to unmarried women are far more likely to die, why don't more pregnant women consider adoption? Adoption is a way for a child to grow up in a loving environment with two responsible and mature parents. The idea of adoption is relatively new, dating back only to the 1920's. In the U.S. today, there exist five to ten million adoptees. Although there have not been many statistics taken on the number of adoptions in the U.S., the number is large and it is increasing. Despite this increase, it appears that many young pregnant mothers are choosing to have abortions. We suspect that this is because of ignorance on the part of the mother. Why else would a mother not choose to sacrifice nine months of her own life to give her child a life of love? There are so many loving families that are waiting for children to adopt.

One sad fact is that minority children are often left in foster homes. Although there is no waiting list for minority or handicapped children, they still deserve a chance at life. The Adoption Option of Louisiana unites disabled children with loving parents. The National Down's Syndrome Adoption Exchange in New York reports having over 100 couples waiting to adopt a child with Down's Syndrome. And, although some adoption agencies don't like the cultural differences, more and more white parents are adopting minorities.

—Julie Dunn

Complications

How safe are abortions? For teenagers, an abortion is seven to nine times safer than childbirth. However, for adult women, abortion is equally as safe as childbirth. There are several different methods of abortion. Depending upon the week or trimester of the pregnancy, various methods of terminating the pregnancy are available. Approximately half of all abortions are performed before the eighth week, and more than 90 percent of all abortions are done by the vacuum aspiration method. This procedure, which is safer than a tonsillectomy, takes anywhere from fifteen minutes to twenty-four hours depending upon the dialator used. Women undergoing this procedure may experience mild to severe cramping.

Like any medical practice, there are possible complications in an abortion procedure. The further the pregnancy, the greater the risk for complications, due to the termination. Infection, blood clots, excessive bleeding, tears in the cervix, and perforation of the uterine wall are the most common afflications. Also, if the woman has internal injuries or complications prior to the abortion, she is at a higher risk for the egg fertilizing in the Fallopian Tube instead of the uterus. Perhaps the most dangerous complication is Amniotic Fluid Embolism. Though quite rare, the amniotic fluid enters the bloodstream and can lead to death. Two to three women out of a hundred complain of minor complications after a first trimester abortion. Less than one out of every hundred develop serious complications requiring additional hospitalization.

In the 1960's, when abortion was illegal, there were 1,200,000 abortions. These abortions were very unsafe, and thus led to numerous infections, complications, and even deaths. Since legalization, there has been much research and development on abortion. Sanitation, technology, and education have improved, and there has been a significant decrease in complications.

—Shana Yansen
Students for Choice

Via Lago Owner Jick Former LHS Student

by Nicole Silverman

Upon entering the store, you are immediately struck by the diversity of the gourmet foods displayed in the glass case on the right. You lick your lips, wondering how you can possibly choose which snack to purchase.

With tousled hair and clad comfortably in a T-shirt, faded jeans, and sneakers, Alan Jick, the owner of Via Lago, the gourmet food market located in Lexington Center, lounges casually on the top of a freezer. Described by one of his employees as being the "most upright and honest businessman I have met thus far in my catering career," he is an alumni of LHS.

Jick describes the LHS he knew ten years ago as a place of cliques and stress and states that the atmosphere since then has changed minimally. "I imagine [LHS] was not a whole lot different when I attended than it is today. Social moods change, but fundamentally, there is not a whole lot of difference that I see when I talk to kids who work here," he said.

Jick's LHS career, 1979 to 1980, spanned his sophomore and junior years. He attended the White Mountain School in Middleton, New Hampshire, his senior year. He recalls that he was not an "active student." Jick said that he "did not dislike [high school, but I] needed more discipline. I think teachers liked me as a person, but they were not impressed with my attitude about school." While at LHS, Jick played on the basketball team, but did not participate in any other school-sponsored activities.

During high school, Jick did not consider the food business a career oportunity. He says, "I did not think of [food] in terms of a career early on." Instead, Jick decided to become a lawyer and majored in political science at Boston University. After gaining some experience in the law field, he decided that he was "no longer drawn to it."

As his education in the legal field continued, his interest decreased. It was at this point that Jick began contemplating the creation of Via Lago.

"I wanted to work with food and I had an idea that I thought would work," Jick commented. The name "Via Lago," meaning "Lake Street" in Latin, originated from Jick's brother, who opened an Arlington pasta shop called Via Lago.

When opening his own store in Lexington, Jick decided to use the name. Jick describes his store as having mainly an Italian influence, but explained that this influence does not exclude other types of food from being sold.

Jick and his employees make much of what they sell, but he purchases the bagels and cakes pre-made. Jick enjoys refining his stock to the season and adapting to his customers' palates by observing which items sell and which do not. He explained, "I enjoy cooking. I like to pursue new things. I think that I know what's good and what works with people."

Jick employs many LHS students and he claims that his "experience with high school students has been good. Most kids are dependable and genuinely look out for the best interest of the store. On the whole, I have been pretty happy."

LHS junior Heidi Ludwig describes her fondness for Jick in saying that, "I dig Al because he's really easy-going." Junior Gerard Marino had favorable things to add about Jick, saying, "Al's a good boss. He's like one of the gang." But it is the smiles of the employees and the pleased faces of the customers that are the truest testament to Via Lago's success.

Via Lago owner Alan Jick went to LHS from 1979 to 1980.
Photo by Jon Feldman

Geiger to Leave Lexington

Continued from page 1

brought a lot of new ideas to the system, a lot of innovations."

The search for a new superintendent was discussed at the May 6 School Committee meeting. Before the meeting, Coit said, "Our first step will be to figure out exactly what kind of person we're looking for. There will be a lot of discussion."

Geiger said, "I don't envision, as do some members of the School Committee, annual overrides for the rest of our lives....Unless somebody makes hard decisions next year...there are going to be tough times and students will suffer. But it doesn't have to be that way."

Coit stated that the School Committee hopes to hire a new superintendent in "the late fall. But I don't want to rush into a bad decision. If we don't find what we are looking for the first time out, we will go out and look again."

In the interim between Geiger's exit and the arrival of the new superintendent, according to Coit, there will be an acting superintendent. Coit said that the target date for appointing an acting superintendent is early- to mid-June.

Geiger's superintendency saw numerous changes at the High School. Among these were a restructuring of administrative duties and positions, a restriction of open campus priviliges, an increase in teacher patrolling duties, a tightening of the attendance policy, and the introduction of the Marriott Corporation to handle food services.

The superintendent's innovations and methods were often accepted with less-than-open arms by faculty and students.

Despite the many disagreements he has had with members of the school community, Geiger said that he leaves without hard feelings. Coit said that she believes that the superintendent never received the full support of those involved with the school system because of his "style of managment." She would not elaborate further.

Geiger stated, "I came, I had a certain job I was supposed to fulfill, I've accomplished what was asked of me....Some people will be pleased [that I'm leaving]; some will be disappointed. Any time you're hired, you do the best you can do, and that's what I did."

Coit commented, "I really do think that people should be making an effort to thank [Geiger]. Whatever disagreements we've had doesn't mean we can't be gracious. People should be saying 'goodbye and thank you.' "

Geiger noted that in the months of his Lexington career, "I'll continue to function as I have before — nothing will change. I'm neither going to slow down nor try to get everything done in a few months."

Senate OK's Bill

Continued from page 1

in which he stated that he wanted students to be allowed to attend or conduct any activity during X-Block on the condition that the activity not be mandatory and not meet exclusively during X-Block. The Senate's discussion was also spurred by a memorandum sent by Wilson that proposed either the expansion of X-Block or its abolition.

Wilson also stated his belief that the Senate was not being aggressive enough in its communications with the student body and in its creating interest in the student body. In response to the criticisms, the Senate Communications Committee began a campaign to make students more aware of the Senate, through posters and announcements.

In other Senate news, the entity recently passed a Faculty Candidacy Bill. The bill states that faculty candidates for "contested" positions in the Senate will be required to submit a paragraph summarizing his/her opinions and ideas for the Senate.

The bill, which was submitted by the Policy Committee of the Senate, serves as a companion bill to the Issue Based Elections Bill, submitted by Junior Eric Goss, which requires students running for Senate, School Committee Representative, or class office to write a short paragraph that states their views and opinions.

The Faculty Candidacy Bill, which was passed by the Senate on March 13, 1991 and has been signed by Wilson, is now school policy and will be in effect for the upcoming elections.

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Lexington Band Director Jeffrey Leonard conducts the Concert Band during its April 4 concert with the Harvard University Wind Emsemble.
Photo by Jon Feldman

Bands Score High at Music Festival

Continued from page 1

found the piece to be "very original."

For the concert's finale, all the members of both the Harvard and LHS groups combined on stage to play John Philip Sousa's *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. LHS junior Annie Weinmayr played the piccolo solo.

Junior Ben Nolan liked the assimilation of the groups. "There was so much sound you couldn't tell if somebody was wrong. [It was] just a wall of sound."

As Leonard was conducting the combined groups, Everett was able to move onstage and play the bass trombone part with the band.

LHS bass trombonist Stephen Cooley, a junior, said "It was intimidating to have to sight read my music while standing and have a professional playing over my shoulder."

In addition to his position as Harvard's Director of Bands, Everett, the founder and first president of the International Trombone Association, has performed with the Bolshoi Ballet, the Boston Pops, and the Portland Symphony, as well as the jazz bands of Dizzy Gillespie and Tommy Dorsey.

Sophomore Brett Sroka, who has taken trombone lessons from Everett since the eighth grade, praised Everett's ability to play "really high and really fast...He's a nice guy [too]."

Director Leonard explained that, in addition to the band's playing with the Harvard Wind Ensemble, the concert provided "an opportunity to perform the MICA music for parents. [It's] the best literature we do all year."

The LHS Wind Ensemble performed music that was rated AAAA, the highest possible category available under MICA. Only two other groups out of the total 87 participating bands performed at the level.

Judging at the festival was done by a panel of music educators at one of four different sites around the state. The judges awarded each performance a numerical score, based upon a divisional standard of excellence independent of other groups.

The numerical rating, running from five (highest) to one (lowest), directly translates into a gold, silver, or bronze medal or an honorable mention or festival participation certificate.

David Sporney, a University of Massachusetts professor who adjudicated at LHS, noted that MICA's non-competitive philosophy had won his support, saying "Music and art shouldn't be like war; there is no winner."

At the MICA festival, the Wind Ensemble performed first, repeating its program of Thursday night. Berger stated, "I thought that the second of fourth movements [of Percy Grainger's *Lincolnshire Posy*] were markedly improved." After a conference, the judges awarded the Wind Ensemble a silver medal.

Director Leonard said afterwards the the ensemble had been "fairly evaluated. There were some moments when I forgot I was conducting a high school group and I was conducting music. Then there were those details [that become errors]. They weren't abundant but there were too many."

The LHS Concert Band also earned a rank of silver for its performance later in the day. Berger characterized the performance as "surprisingly good." However, Junior Rishi Jha stated that "Saturday's performance was more tired."

After performing, each group was ushered offstage into a clinic conducted by one of the judges. The Wind Ensemble was urged by adjudicator Eric Rombach, of Boston University, to close its eyes and breathe together before starting its pieces. Freshman Natalie Berger noted, "His approach was good but no one was comfortable with it, so it didn't work."

Walter Chesnut, a professor of music also based at U Mass, conducted the Concert Band's clinic. Rzepka characterized the clinic as "very energetic. He yelled a lot."

Natalie Berger commented, "I think the way he runs things makes people listen to him. When he gets mad, he yells at you. When he is pleased, he raves about you."

Afterwards, Chesnut said, "I enjoyed working with the band...I do these clinics all over the country so it's kind of enjoyable for me." President Davis said of both clinics, "I thought they really helped us and gave us a different viewpoint on our playing."

Richard Castiglione, who has acted as an adjudicator for MICA and other events across the country, commented that MICA was "the best-run music festival" he has yet encountered. Furthermore, out of the five years he has come to MICA, "This year was the best of the MICAs."

Chesnut stated, "The students and people running the festival should be commended from Leonard on down." DeMatteo, who assisted on Saturday, said, "It was well organized and it flowed [without problem]."

Spring Jamboree a Singing Success

by Angela Yin

The auditorium doors opened on April 9 to admit students and people from the community to enjoy a night of talent among the *a cappella* singing groups of Lexington High School at the Spring Jamboree. The audience sat back and relaxed while the lights dimmed, expected to see a fine performance, and was not disappointed.

Senior Evan Gerber, the night's master of ceremonies and house entertainer, kept the audience in laughter between shows. He first introduced "The Vintage Four," made up of seniors Brian Lee, John Kramer, Bryan Williams and junior David Berger. The group sang in the barbershop quartet style, amusing the audience with its first song, "I Miss Her," and ending the song by throwing objects at the audience. The quartet's second song, "Lamorna" displayed the group's true entertaining talent, mixing acting with singing.

Finally, the last song, "Mint Julep," showed just how versatile the Vintage Four could be. While Brian Lee entranced the audience, John Kramer played the pseudo-trumpet/guitar and David Berger played his harmonica for the awed audience. The group went off with its usual Broadway flair.

The "bodacious" (to quote Gerber) jazz singing group "Shaken, Not Stirred" walked on stage in black-and-purple outfits. Lee, the student leader of the group, started the group with "Embraceable You," a slow, lulling love song.

Junior Tanya Frank came meekly forward, but was an attention-getter for the next piece, "Satin Doll." While she sang in her clear, lilting voice, she batted her eyelashes to the audience, resembling a jazzy bar singer. The next selection was the slow lullaby "A Child is Born." The group then switched to a lighter style for its finale, "Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone."

M.C. Gerber returned in a comic get-up to entertain the crowd. Next, the Euphonic Twelve, previously known as the Bobby Sox, came on stage. With outstanding choreography throughout their entire performance, seniors Bekki Hutton and Kara Smith began with "I'm Sticking With You." Tanya Frank again displyed her impressive singing abilities in the next number, "Why Do Fools Fall in Love?" The last duet, sung by senior Tissa Abedinejad and junior Mary Terzian, mixed both dance and song to impress the audience.

The well-known Madrigals then prepared to sing, while Gerber, still in his silver outfit, claimed that it was too hot and proceeded to do a strip scene through several pairs of boxers and T-shirts, giving the audience a good laugh. The somber Madrigals soon arrived on stage, presenting a good contrast to Gerber's slapstick humo. The Madrigals never fail to impress an audience — and this night was no exception. The group performed in both French ("Il est bel et bon") and Italian ("Io non son pero morto") . The other three pieces, "Rejection," "Flow My Tears," and "Rest," were serious songs, but the Madrigals were able to perform them with a pizazz and sophisticated flair that only this choir can pull off.

In contrast to the Madrigals, the all-female Quatrains Quartet performed three hilarious numbers, with help from Gerber. By this point, Gerber had changed yet again. His outfit was now a blond, overcurly wig with two silver ball antennae sticking out of it, an orange shirt under a beige jacket, and fishnet stockings.

The Quatrains, referred to as the "harmonious chicks" by Gerber, based their performance on that of the Valentine Quartets. Those in the group were senior Kara Smith, juniors Margot Hartunian and Jennifer Schulte, and sophomore Jessica Van Nostrand. Gerber received the "Valentine" while the four girls pretended to disdain the idea of singing to Gerber.

The comedy of the situation and laughter of the audience, however, still did not drown out the two numbers, "Earth Angel," and "You Send Me." For their last selection, the singers sang "Honey Pie" to senior Eric Reuss, a volunteer from the audience. The final group to perform was none other than the Pitchpipes, "the manly men of M-1," according to Gerber. Its first piece, a bit of character for the Pitchpipes, was called "Hombe." It was a Kenyan folk song and a lullaby and it exemplified male *a cappella* group's versatility. Senior John Kramer performed the next piece, "Night and Day," a lustful love song for his lover. The finale piece was "Blue Moon," which required a volunteer. Senior Catherine Gill was serenaded by sophomore Hong Kwon, who also waltzed with her. Senior David Frohman made the ideal bass for Lee to play.

To everyone's disappointment, the evening concluded early, but the lulling, funny, somber, exciting, and beautiful voices of the talented LHS singers will be remembered for long time by all who attended.

Senior Slump: Fact or Fiction?

by Susan Catterall

It's here. The moment the LHS faculty has been dreading and the moment LHS seniors have been looking forward to since freshman year. Senior slump. It sends chills down seniors' backs. Most seniors have worked hard for years and the chance to slack off a little is too tempting to pass up. Spring is here and seniors hang out in the senior and flagpole quads, too cool to get to class on time. Seniors can be seen walking to their cars at the end of the day, jingling carkeys in their book-free hands.

For many seniors, this is a first and well-desrved break in a long school career. "I'm slumping and I'm burned out," confessed one senior. Another senior noted, "Now I do all the things I want to do and not all the things I have to do." To a different senior, senior slump means "not having to do 10,000 errands during free block. You can just sit outside during free blocks and eat chocolate chip muffins."

A male senior observed, "Junior year you just get burned out, but you still try to work. Senior year...you stop doing things for grades." He claimed that he still does work, but not to the extent he once did. He also added, "You can concentrate on classes you like, not necessarily the ones that are important."

Many eighteen-year-old seniors excuse themselves from school because "school seems worthless, especially after you get accepted to college." Another senior declared that she "can't wait for a really nice day. I want to go to Walden Pond." Another senior divulged, "I am slumping. I couldn't slump until I got letters from colleges, but I am slumping now."

Some seniors claim senior slump is just a vicious rumor. "Senior slump is a myth. The point of senior year is to get into college. I'm working harder this semester that I did last semester," one senior testified. Seniors who are taking one semester courses to fill graduation requirements are finding themselves working late into the night in supposed senior slump season. One overworked senior groaned, "I still have so much stuff to do."

Seniors Trelawney Goodell and Katie Ravich lounge on the lawn of the Senior Quad. Many seniors are taking advantage of the weather and spending more time outdoors.
Photo by Tina Granger

Seniors who have been placed on waiting lists at colleges must also continue to keep their grades up in the second semester — for the grades will play a role in acceptance or rejection.

What is being done to stop slumpers? Not much. Seniors who are eighteen can excuse themselves from classes; the most parents can do is ground their slumpers or cancel their graduation fling to Europe. Many teachers seem to have accepted the fact that most seniors will slump at one time or another. A few more rigid teachers have increased homework to include second semester projects that influence final grades heavily. One teacher's attempt to stop slumping includes an ultimatum in his syllabus: "[R]egardless of students' averages for the first semester, if any student fails the second semester, he or she can expect to fail for the year."

Colleges, too, threaten to take away acceptances if a student does not progress as expected. However, most students ignore these threats and maintain the goal of keeping a C average.

Tough Times for Girls' LAX

by Sara Fertitta

This year's girls' lacrosse team started its season on a sour note, losing its first four games. Lexington players look to improve, however, once they have a few more games under their belts.

The first game of the new season, on April 2, was called due to inclement weather after the first half. Newton North was leading 6-1 as the teams ran for cover from the hail, rain, and dark clouds.

In compliance with MIAA rules requiring 80 percent of a game to be played to be considered official, the entire match was replayed the following Monday.

Newton North picked up where it left off, building up a 5-2 first half lead. Lexington came back in the second half to register four goals, but the Tigers also improved to make the game a 15-6 Newton North victory.

Jessie Williams was the high scorer for the Minutemaids, with four goals and one assist. Tashia Economopoulos and Concetta Marino each had one goal.

Lexington fell to Weston in its first complete game of the season on April 4th . Weston controlled the first half, compiling a comfortable 9-1 lead.

Lexington defense, anchored by Trelawney Goodell, Ann Chang and goalie Priya Verma stepped up in the second half to hold Weston to just five goals, while the Maids' offense netted two shots in the plus column. The final score was 16-3.

Concord-Carlisle handed Lexington its third loss in a 10-4 decision on Tuesday, April 9th. The teams played without a goal until 8:11 when Concord-Carlisle's Michelle McCante scored the first of her four goals.

In the next seven minutes, Concord scored three more goals to take a 4-0 edge. Marino fed Sheila Walsh at 18:02 for Lexington's first goal. Concord countered with one, but Williams connected off another Marino assist at 24:19 to put the Maids down, 5-2 going into halftime.

The Patriots hung up two more goals before Economopoulos nailed a shot for Lexington at 15:19 to cut Concord-Carlisle's lead to 7-3. Concord-Carlisle posted three more goals in the next eight minutes. Williams finished the game on a positive note for Lexington with a powerful goal at 23:48.

Senior tri-captains Marino, Goodell, and Walsh join classmates Anne Quinn, Linda Mark and Adrienne Colby to lead a young team. Experienced juniors Economopoulos, Verma, Heidi Chang, Sheila Cannon, Megan Doerr, and Erin O'Connor provide depth for the team.

Juniors Tina Granger, Jasmin Kermaty, Ann Chang, and Katya Ashe move up to the Varsity level this year. Talented Williams leads a handful of sophomores including Rachel Chansky, Sam Peltz, and Jocelyn Nill.

Lexington runners sophomore Lora Marzilli and senior Sarah Hutchinson race for the finish line during a meet with Woburn.

Photo by Jon Feldman

Boys' Lacrosse Playing it Even

by George Landman

By the end of the first week of the 1991 Lexington lacrosse season, Coach Dave Lautman and the rest of the Minutemen were riding high on a 9-8 final-second upset victory over Newton North.

However, at the present time, the Laxmen are back to reality, with their regular season record even at 3-3.

The 1991 team has had to overcome much adversity, with only nine returning varsity players and nagging injuries to key players. The Minutemen found themselves playing two of the top five teams in the state (Lincoln-Sudbury and Weymouth) undermanned.

Despite the two consecutive losses to these teams, it is clear that the Minutemen have improved from the experience and are ready to dominate teams in the North League.

The Minutemen, 2-1 in the North, owe much of their success to defensemen Greg Weeks, John Kissel and goalie Scott Silva. It has been their improved play that has inspired the rest of the team.

Leading the attackmen this season has been Tom Scott and Matt Breslin. Their consistent play has been responsible for the successful offense.

Equally noteworthy has been the "run and gun" high intensity play of the Midi's. The mid-field line of Bryan Barnes, George Landman and Anthony Desimone has established a very dangerous transition game.

With the heavy load of the schedule behind them, the Minutemen are out to prove that they can be contenders in the North League.

Junior Justin Sweder readies for a backhand volley during a boys' tennis team practice.

Photo by Jon Feldman

Community Service Bill Sparking Volunteerism

by Bernadine Tsung

Three years after "twenty hours of community service" became a graduation requirement, the potential for such volunteerism is finally being realized. In June of 1992, this year's junior class will have become the first class at Lexington High School to fulfill the requirement.

In 1988, the LHS Student/Faculty Senate passed a bill requiring twenty hours of mandatory volunteer work, affecting the Classes of 1992, 1993, and 1994.

Traditionally, community service had been a responsibility only for those seniors fulfilling National Honors Society (NHS) requirements. These seniors are required to spend time each week tutoring students at the high school.

While most agree that volunteer work is beneficial, the requirement has sparked its share of controversy. Some, like junior Mike Urban, contend that, although community service is a "noble cause,...it shouldn't be mandatory." Senior Agneiszka Reiss agreed with Urban, pointing out that "mandatory volunteer work is a contradiction in terms."

Junior Nicole Silverman opposed Urban's view, countering, "Mandatory community service is a good idea, but it should be extended to one hundred hours over four years. Lexington gives so much to its students, that [the students] should reciprocate."

Yet, despite the grumbling, most juniors and many sophomores are already well on their way to finishing their community service. "Twenty hours really isn't a lot," stated junior Casey McCahon. "Once you get started it's very easy to get it all done."

McCahon has completed over one hundred hours of volunteer work, and is a member of Lexington's Student Advisory Board (SAB) to the Thomas Jefferson Forum. The Forum is a student run, state-wide group devoted entirely to volunteerism. It is responsible for both organizing volunteer events throughout the state and for sponsoring several volunteerism workshops throughout the year.

The Lexington SAB, supervised by LHS Work-Experience Coordinator Nancy Gordon, provides Lexington students with the opportunity to participate in Forum activities as well as other local volunteer events. Recently, the SAB took part in a "celebration" during which seven LHS students spent a Saturday afternoon renovating the caretaker's cottage at the Fernald School.

> "I think everyone wants to help, they just need a kick in the right direction."
>
> —junior Warren Chuang

The school was just one of the five different sites at which Forum volunteers worked. With students from four schools participating at each site, volunteers were able to meet students from other towns.

Afterward, the volunteers were transported to the City Line building in Boston where they met with volunteers from the other sites for dinner and a party. Said junior Srilu Ravi, "It was fun, and I met a lot of people. It was very worthwhile."

This year, Lexington's six-member student board is comprised of juniors Casey McCahon, Diane Holland, Bernadine Tsung, Nicole Silverman, Ami Hirani, and Samantha Davis. On May 2, the SAB held its Forum's annual meeting at the World Trade Center.

The meeting focused on different aspects of community service and was open to the public. In the near future, the SAB will be organizing groups to participate in the Very Special Arts Festival at the Children's Museum. A group of volunteers is now being organized for service at the Winchester Hospital this summer.

The main goal of the SAB is too make people more aware of the volunteer opportunities available, and to make people realize that volunteering can be enjoyable. Said Gordon, "Once you start volunteering you get hooked...The problem is getting people out there the first time."

Junior Warren Chuang agreed with Gordon, saying, "I think everyone wants to help, they just need a kick in the right direction." So what are volunteer groups using as an incentive these days?

"Food," said McCahon, "everywhere you go someone is feeding you."

"It's unfortunate, but most people need a bribe the first time," confirmed Holland, a junior.

One institution that relies heavily on volunteers is Replace. A peer counseling center, Replace is located at the Masonic Temple in Lexington. Volunteers at the center must first train for twelve weeks, two hours per week. Training sessions are offered in the fall as well as the spring.

As volunteers they attend weekly meetings on the progress of programs and do such work as running the drop-in center, answering calls to the hotline and participating in the peer education program. Peer educators will soon be talking to freshman Life Skills classes to discuss dating violence.

"I've always been interested in working in prevention and intervention," said Junior Andrea Bettachi, who has earned almost one hundred and fifty hours of community service credit during her one-and-a-half years with Replace.

Bettachi, who is a youth representative for the peer program, cited lack of publicity as the center's biggest problem. "No one knows about what we do," she stated.

Senior Bryan Lee, an NHS member, tutors juniors in pre-calculus and chemistry. In addition to this, he, junior David Berger and seniors John Kramer and Brian Williams make up the the "Vintage Four" barbershop quartet. Though the quartet was not formed with community service in mind, it does travel to senior centers to perform without pay.

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Girls' Track Keeps Up in Middlesex League

by Bernadine Tsung

The LHS girls' track team began the year well, with a 105-30 victory over visiting Melrose. Lexington made a strong showing, placing first in every event, and placing second and/or third in most.

The pace was set by tri-captain Shana Yansen, who placed first in the 300 yard hurdles with a time of 49.8 seconds. Yansen had only run the 300 yard hurdles once before, yet her time passed the qualifying standards for the State Invitational, the Loukes Games, and the State Division 1 Championship meet, all of which are held in May.

Yansen was followed by Jenny Lang, another senior for whom the 300 hurdles was a new event. Lang came back from behind to take third with a time of 57.0 seconds.

In the mile, freshman Jen Geiger placed first with a time of 5:57. Rachel Quinn placed third in 6:21. Quinn is one ofmany newcomers filling out this year's roster.

Despite the addition of several new runners and jumpers, Lexington remains one of the smallest teams in the league, numbering fewer than 25 members. Because of its small size, some of the biggest problems that Lexington will face this season will be illness and injury.

Already, Lexington is being plagued by problems. Against Melrose, two Lexington throwers were either injured or recovering. Junior Yolanda Scott battled ankle problems to place third in the shot put and second in the discus.

Senior Angela Marino has been recovering from an appendectomy. Nevertheless, she was not to be stopped and threw an impressive 97'8" in the javelin event.

In the discus senior Carolyn Whyte came away with an upset, out-throwing teammate Scott to come in first with a distance of 78'5".

Junior Laura Veldkamp took third place with a distance of 26'2", completing Lexington's sweep of the discus event.

Last season's Northern Area shot-put chaampion, Michelle Pavidis, was back, placing first. The junior's 32'10 1/2" throw qualified her for both the State Individual and the State Division 1 Championship meets.

Tri-captain Sara Hutchinson placed first in the long jump with a jump of 13'5". This surpassed sophomore Jane Cargill's distance of 12'9". Cargill, along with sophomore Lora Marzilli and freshman Jennifer James, later swept the 100 yard dash.

Yansen took her second first place of the day in the high jump, leaping to 4'6". Freshman Nicole Medas came in second at 4'2".

Sophomore Becky Dennison placed first in the triple jump with a jump of 30'1 1/2", leading jumpers Chantel Morel and Lora Marzilli to another sweep.

In the 800-yard run, Dennison finished strongly with a time of 2 minutes and 29 seconds. Freshman Cara Attanucci placed third in 2:40.

Hutchinson sprinted far ahead of her competition in the 200 yard dash, placing first with a time of 27.8 seconds. Sophomore Chloe Hill, Lexington's only competitor in the 400-yard run, came in an easy first. In the two mile, tri-captain Agnieszka Reiss lapped her nearest opponent, winning in 13:00.

By the time the relays came, the Maids had long since won the meet. Lexington runners, however, also dominated the 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

The 4x100 race was run by sophomore Sylvia Sellers, James, Cargill, and Marzilli. The mile relay was run by Andrea Santusuoso, Quinn, Geiger, and anchor Dennison.

Sophomore Jane Cargill hands off the baton to senior Shana Yansen at a home match against Woburn track.

Photo by Jon Feldman

Smashing 5-1 Start for Boys' Varsity Tennis

by Rick Zeoli

With a victory against Melrose in the first match of the regular season, the Lexington High School boys' tennis team demonstrated that it is out to carry on the winning efforts of last year's team.

The Minutemen's group of veterans and new talent hope to build momentum into the matches ahead.

Coming off last year's second place finish in the Middlesex League and a berth in the Massachusetts State Quarterfinals, the squad will be a serious contender again this season.

Senior co-captain Rick Zeoli and junior Nathaniel Zimmer, both in their third year of varsity competition, fill the first two singles spots.

Junior Nicola Koo, in his second year with the team, has taken the third singles spot.

The first doubles team, made up of senior co-captain Cam Boyd and junior Justin Sweder, is returning from last year's sensational season at second doubles.

Junior newcomers Jim Ko and Doug Yuan round out the squad at second doubles.

Senior Jeff Monaco, who is in his third year, competed with the varsity during the pre-season but is currently sidelined with a back injury. The team is looking forward to his return later in the season.

Coach George Mechem is piloting the team into what he hopes will be a successful season. Despite the loss of all three singles players from last year, Mechem has built a group that is ready to compete. With the Minutemen's first victory behind them, he now turns toward the tough competition ahead.

The pre-season went well for the Minutemen, with the exception of a frustrating loss to a strong Acton-Boxboro team. Although both doubles teams emerged victorious, the three singles positions could not squeeze out a win.

This temporary setback did not discourage the Minutemen. A visiting Bedford squad was crushed in a 5-0 rout by the newly vengeful Lexington team.

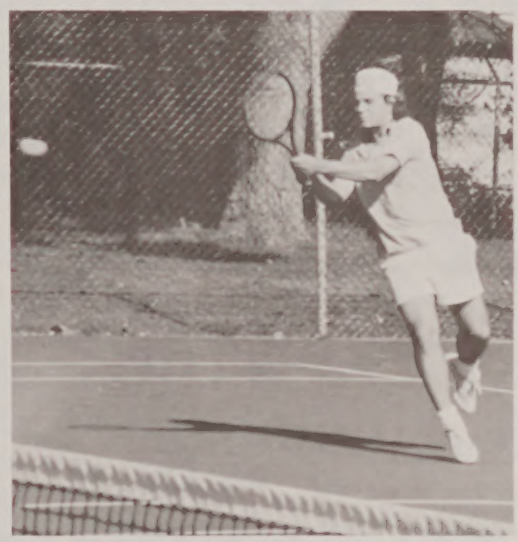
The last match of the pre-season was an important victory for the Minutemen. A tough Newton-South unit was defeated by the Minutemen, 4-1, in a victory that bode well for a successful regular season. These contests were highlighted by strong performances from Monaco and Josh Plumb.

The first regular season match found the Minutemen at Melrose, traditionally a determined group. But the Minutemen came out focused on securing the victory. Koo at third singles came up with the first point by dispatching his opponent 6-1, 6-3.

At second singles, Zimmer was overcome 6-0, 6-1 by his opponent's consistent attack. But Ko and Yuan, playing the second doubles spot, took their match 6-2, 6-3, giving the team its second point.

The third victory was won at first singles by Zeoli, who fought off a late threat, 6-3, 7-5. Boyd and Sweder supplied the final victory at first doubles, 7-5, 6-3.

With the regular season underway, the Minutemen are determined to continue their winning ways in upcoming matches.



Senior Cameron Boyd returns a solid shot to his teammate at a center court practice.

Photo by Jon Feldman

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Boys' Track Starts on Right Foot

by Dan Marx

The boys' track team is off and running to another great season. Wins against Belmont and Woburn over the vacation have put the team's record at 3-0. Lexington devastated Belmont in the 97 to 48 rout last Tuesday in a meet with startling similarity to the Melrose meet, also a 97 to 48 victory.

The hurdles was the only event that Belmont won. Lexington's inexperienced hurdle squad was down with a few of their top runners out. In the 300 low hurdles race, Belmont took the top two spots after Lexington's only competitor was disqualified. In the 110 high hurdles, Belmont again took the top two place, but John Winchell finished in third place for Lexington.

The rest of the day went perfectly. Ken Richards (11.6) ran for his second first place finish in two meets for Lexington.

Charlie Williams (54.6) and Avi Schacter (54.8), the same duo who took the top two spots for Lexington in the first meet, again finished first and second in the 400.

In the one-mile race, Ed Single (4:38) and Young-Ho Yoon (4:52), who have been consistently strong performers for the team, again took the number one and three spots, respectively. As in the 800, a new trio of distance runners upheld the tradition of sweeping the two mile race in Lexington's favor. This time it was Ted Fitzpatrick (10:13), Lowell Ladd (10:40) who is performing extremely well for a freshman, and Greg D'Agostino (10:40).

The jumping events were more of the same. The team of Chris Williams and Brad Gelling took both the high and the long jump events. They scored first and third, respectively in both the long jump. The duo of Charlie Williams and Avi Schacter who dominanted the 400 proved they were multitalented taking first and second again this time in the triple jump. Sean Gnecco and Ed Single both vaulte 9 feet for second and third in the pole vault.

The throwing events went well for Lexington. Dave Frohman was the lone scorer in the shot-put with a second place throw of 37'7", but in the javelin the squad of Frohman (155'9"), Jon Kiladis (147'), and Pat McDonough (146') teamed up for the third sweep of the day for Lexington. Sean Gnecco took the discus single-handedly with a first place hurl of 112'4".

> "One plus was the contribution of the young [runners], especially in the absence of some of the more experienced runners."
>
> —boys' track coach Arthur Dulong

Lexington wrapped up the meet with easy wins in both the 4x100 and 4x400.

When Lexington faced Woburn the team had its first taste of fine Middlesex League competition. In the end, though, the Lexington boys' team prevailed in a 76 to 67 win, their third of the year.

Head Coach Arthur Dulong said the boys' team was "fortunate to come out with a win." He also noted that "one plus was the contribution of the young [runners], especially in the absence of some of the more experienced runners."

Lexington continued to struggle in 300 low hurdles where Woburn took places one and two. Bill Green (47) who ran very competitively finished third for Lexington just fractions of a second behind the second place finisher. In the 110 high hurdles, John Winchell (18.5) ran extremely well to take a first place.

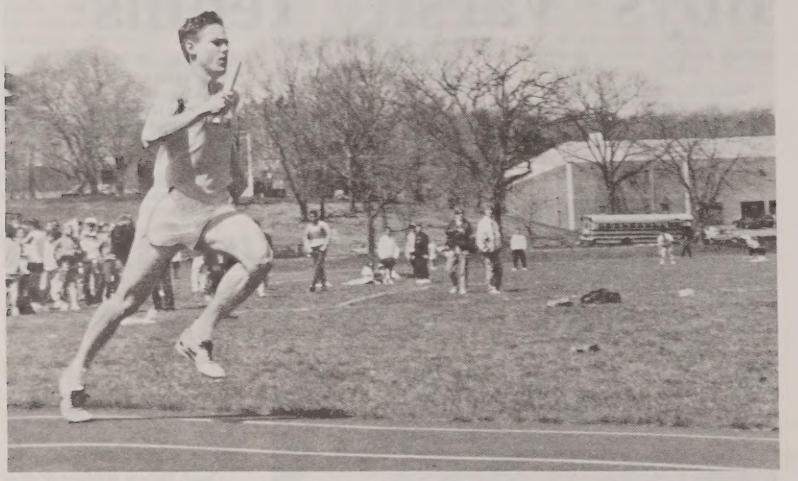
Ken Richards (11.7) took his third consecutive first place finish for Lexington in the 100 meter dash. Eric Jansen (12.2) ran very well coming off an injury to take third.

Woburn competition was extremely strong in the 400. The Minutemen's only point came from a Charlie Williams third place time of 54.5, a time that earned him first place in prior meets.

Out came the brooms, though, for the 800 meter race which Lexington has swept in every meet so far this season. The same trio of Bryan Williams, Eric Losick and Brad Gelling who swept the event against Belmont repeated their performance finishing 1-2-3 in respective order.

In the 200, Ken Richards (24.1) took first place running out of his usual event. Richards ran the race to make up for the absence of Chris Williams. Greg Landel (24.9) took second place.

Young-Ho Yoon (4:51) and Matt Lennox (4:56) finished 1-2 in the one mile race.



Senior Bryan Williams runs a relay at a recent home boys' track meet. The team has a 4-0 record heading into key matches with Reading and Winchester. Photo by Jon Feldman

New Coach Leads Girls' Tennis on Winning Streak

by Seetha Ramnath

Under the leadership of new coach Ruth Levanoni Kirschbaum, the Lexington girls' tennis team has kicked off its season with five consecutive wins, jumping off to an early lead in the Middlesex League.

Kirschbaum is herself an accomplished tennis player, having played throughout her high school career as well as on the varsity team at Brandeis University. "As a new coach, it took a little time for all the returning team players to adjust to my style, but we're feeling more and more comfortable as we practice," commented Kirschbaum.

Newly elected tri-captains, seniors Petra Rydlova, Charlotte Woodbridge, and Anjali Nagpaul, provided their thoughts on the prospects for the season. Nagpaul commented, "We have potential and good team unity."

"It's important to do well, but it's more important that everyone enjoys the season," Rydlova added.

The team has defeated the Melrose, Belmont, Woburn, Wakefield, and Winchester teams thus far.

The team's 4-1 victory on May 1 against Winchester was particularly satisfying as it was the first time in ten years the Lexington had beaten Winchester.

Consisting of 21 members, this year's girls' tennis team is one of the largest in the Middlesex League. The veterans highlight this year's team. Playing in the first singles position for her second year is Rydlova. Junior Seetha Ramnath, moving up from the 1st doubles spot, is in the second singles spot this year while sophomore Jessica Van Nostrand occupies the third singles position. Woodbridge and Nagpaul are the first doubles team and Juniors Keri Sarajian and Alexis Baker round off the varsity team as the number two doubles tandem.

Coach Kirschbaum made it clear that she was "very nervous but excited: a 'good' nervous." However, Woodbridge indicated that though this year's squad is a promising team, "we have to be willing to work to realize our potential, and we're planning on doing that."

The Maids begin their regular season following vacation week.

The junior varsity team consists of the following doubles teams: Julia Thompson and Gina Coplon, Alicia Kojkorogianis and Elaina Propolo, Jodi Nierman and Liz Dubin, Peggy Lin and Gill Grant, Jennifer Goodwin and Elizabeth Crane, Martha Thompson and Lindsey Kotzen, and Stephanie Hope and Crissy Lin.

Senior tri-captain Charlotte Woodbridge serves as her fellow tri-captain, senior Anjali Nagpaul, stands ready at the net. Photo by Jon Feldman

Softball Vying for League Title

by Michelle Conceison

The 1991 girls' varsity softball team, coached by Laura Lasa, has opened the season with a 7-1 record, placing Lexington in a three-way tie for the Middlesex League lead.

Players returning from last year include co-captains and seniors Cindy Harrington and Heidi Friedlander and seniors Melissa Mills and Carol D'Antuono, juniors Erin Fitzpatrick and Samantha Coyne, and sophomores Kelly Harrington, Karen Tracey, and Michelle Conceison. The returning players are joined by the following newcomers: senior Kerin McArthur, juniors Katherine Carvey, Meredith Fantasia, Jennifer Jansen, and Adrienne Santamaria, and sophomores Sam Nebolsine and Cathy Molle.

The softball team played two successful, pre-season scrimmages against Peabody and Newton North. In addition, the girls participated in a tournament held in Hopkington, New Hampsire, on Saturday, April 6, where they played four four-inning scrimmages, receiving second place in their bracket.

Every player will have an important role in the team's success. Harrington, recognized as one of the best pitchers in Massachusetts, explained, "People expect a lot, but whatever I do is not the whole game; it is everyone, not me, who will play the game. This team is close, like a family, and everyone gets along; that is important."

As for strengths and expectations, Coach Lasa stated, "We are going to have the pitching and fielding that we had last year. We need to improve our hitting and base running. We have nine returning players, some of whom have changed thir positions this season. We will know where we stand when the games start up."

> "We want to be a team that other teams do not like to see coming up on their schedule. We want to be a team that other coaches dread playing."
>
> —softball coach Laura Lasa

Coach Lasa summed up the team's goals by stating, "We want the same thing as last year: To have fun, and should success follow that is an accession. We want to be a team that other teams do not like to see coming up on their schedule. We want to be a team that other coaches dread playing."

Mental focus will be an important aspect of the team's attitude. Harrington expressed, "There is no doubt that our team will be a competitive one. We need to keep our heads in the game and play it one game at a time; every game is important no matter what the team's reputation is. We need to maintain positive attitudes and be enthusiastic." Friedlander added, "We should go into each game confidently, but know that we have a lot to learn about where we stand competitively. There is a lot of talent on the team that makes this season a promising one."